



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/089,331	03/27/2002	Dana Paul Gruenbacher	8166M	1461

27752 7590 06/02/2004

THE PROCTER & GAMBLE COMPANY
INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY DIVISION
WINTON HILL TECHNICAL CENTER - BOX 161
6110 CENTER HILL AVENUE
CINCINNATI, OH 45224

EXAMINER

PRUNNER, KATHLEEN J

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

3751

DATE MAILED: 06/02/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/089,331

Applicant(s)

GRUENBACHER ET AL.

Examiner

Kathleen J. Prunner

Art Unit

3751

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 10 May 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7 and 10-30 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7 and 10-30 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Request for Continued Examination

1. The request filed on May 10, 2004 for a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) under 37 CFR 1.114 (a)(3) based on parent Application No. 10/089,331 is acceptable and an RCE has been established. An action on the RCE follows.

Drawings

2. The "Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review" (form PTO-948), attached to paper 041904, contained objections to the drawings which are maintained.

3. Applicant is required to submit a proposed drawing correction in reply to this Office action. However, formal correction of the noted defect may be deferred until after the examiner has considered the proposed drawing correction. Failure to timely submit the proposed drawing correction will result in the abandonment of the application.

Specification

4. The specification is objected to as failing to provide proper antecedent basis for the claimed terminology. See 37 CFR 1.75(d)(1) and MPEP § 608.01(o). The claim terminology which lacks such antecedent basis is as follows: (A) "a resealable channel", as now called by claims 1 and 25; and (B) "a first substrate", as called for by claims 29 and 30. Correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

5. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

6. Claims 1-7, 10-23 and 25-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, because the specification, while being enabling for “the distribution channel 44 may be of a material and configuration such that it is ‘self-sealing’ and collapses shut to restrict, if not preclude, fluid flow” (note lines 18-19 on page 14) and “The channel will naturally lay flat (and thereby closed) due to the seals, but will become almost tubular when the reservoir is pressurized and filled with fluid traveling through the channel. Upon release of the pressure, the channel will tend to naturally return to its flat state, causing a sealing effect” (note lines 23-26 on page 14), does not reasonably provide enablement for “a ‘resealable’ channel”. The specification does not enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the invention commensurate in scope with these claims.

7. Claims 2, 13 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, because the specification, while being enabling for “to protect the wearer’s hand from contact with liquids absorbed by the back panel 26, it may be desirable for some applications to include an optional additional fluid impervious barrier layer 27, the interior of which defines the back inner surface 34 that faces the wearer’s hand during use” (note lines 1-4 on page 28), does not reasonably provide enablement for “a first substantially fluid-impervious barrier layer is located between said reservoir and said second internal surface of said second side”, as now called for by claim 2. The specification does not enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the invention commensurate in scope with these claims.

8. Claims 13 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. Claim 13 now calls for “a second substantially fluid-impervious barrier layer disposed between said first barrier layer and said second internal surface”. However, the

Art Unit: 3751

originally filed disclosure merely supports “in order to protect the hand of the user from contact with the product during the dispensing and/or dispersing operation, the applicators of the present invention can include a barrier layer 25, the interior of which defines the front inner surface 32 that faces the wearer’s hand during use. The barrier layer 25 is preferably impervious to the product” (note lines 30-33 on page 22). Hence, claim 13 is directed to new matter.

9. Claim 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. Claim 7 now calls for the reservoir to have “a first burst force when said reservoir is folded and a second burst force when said reservoir is unfolded”. However, the originally filed disclosure merely supports “the pouch is able to rupture at a relatively low force . . . by folding the pouch on the frangible seal or between the frangible seal and the reservoir such that there is a mechanical advantage that occurs preventing the pouch from bursting and generally protects the pouch from undesired rupture and premature fluid dispensing . . . this technique has been shown to effectively raise the bursting force . . . by folding the applicator into a compact unit” (note lines 1-12 on page 24). Hence, claim 7 is directed to new matter.

10. Claim 10 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. Claim 10 now calls for the reservoir to “further comprises a distribution head in fluid communication with said resealable channel”. However, the originally filed disclosure merely supports “the bursting pouch may also have an integral distribution head (such as illustrated as channel 44 of Figure 7) that allows the product to be dispensed and dosed to different portions of the applicator” (note lines 18-21 on page 12). Hence, claim 10 is directed to new matter.

Art Unit: 3751

11. Claim 21 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. Claim 21 now calls for the product to be selected from “window cleaning compounds, bathroom cleaning compounds, kitchen cleaning compounds, furniture dusting and polishing compounds, body cleaning compounds, teeth cleaning compounds, car vinyl protectant compounds, herbicide compounds, skin lotion compounds, and baby clean-up compounds”. However, the originally filed disclosure merely describes that the product in the reservoir “may be a liquid, a gel, a lotion, a cream, a powder or even a solid” (note lines 11-12 on page 9); “may include product(s) of the same, similar, or diverse compositions” (note lines 29-32 on page 11); “a chamber could have a bleach formula . . . and the other chamber could contain surfactants and cleaning solutions suitable for removing dirt and soap scum” (note lines 7-10 on page 12); “a disposable finger toothbrush that dispenses baking soda and peroxide” (note lines 13-14 on page 12); “the compositions of the present invention can contain several adjuvants such as perfume and dye” (note lines 27-28 on page 34); “a liquid cleaning product” (note lines 29-33 on page 46); “the glass cleaning composition” (note line 18 on page 48); “product applications include . . . face and body cleansers, toners, lotions, moisturizers, ointments, cosmetics/make-ups, medicaments, and related topically applied treatments” (note lines 20-25 on page 49); “a protectant product” (note lines 1-6 on page 55); “cleaning solution to clean the baby” (note lines 21-22 on page 56); “Pledge furniture polish” (note lines 3-6 on page 58); “facial lotions and creams, cosmetics, liquid foundation, toothpaste or other dentifrices, sunscreen” (note lines 25-27 on page 58); “a no-rinse body cleansing solution” (note lines 32-33 on page 59); “a herbicide” (note line 1 on page 62); and “a dosing pouch containing . . . liquid Comet Bathroom cleaner” (note lines 17-18 on page 63). Hence claim 21 contains new matter.

12. Claim 24 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described

Art Unit: 3751

in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. Claim 24 now calls for “placing said first fluid-containing flexible film dosing reservoir in a predetermined location between said first and second webs”. However, the originally filed disclosure merely supports “Once the first and second webs are secured to form a composite web, at least one reservoir 114 (corresponding to the reservoir 30 of Figure 2) is placed in an appropriate location in relation to the web dimensions so as to be located within the dimensions of the finished applicator” (note lines 15-18 on page 45). Hence, claim 24 is directed to new matter.

13. Claims 29 and 30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and/or use the invention. Claims 29 and 30 call for the product to be released “sequentially” and “via multiple applications of pressure to said reservoir”. However, the specification fails to describe or support such release of the product from the reservoir.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

14. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

15. Claim 24 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Cohen et al. Cohen et al. disclose a method for forming an applicator for distributing a substance onto a target surface having all the claimed features including a first side (constituted by label 14), a second side (constituted by applicator pad 11), a first fluid-containing flexible film dosing reservoir (constituted by packet 13), and a dispensing aperture (constituted by nozzle 16) associated with the flexible film reservoir 13 and through which the fluid is selectively distributed to the second side 11, and a method for forming an applicator having all the claimed features including

Art Unit: 3751

providing a first web 500A corresponding to one of the sides, providing a second web 500B corresponding to the other side, placing the reservoir 13 in a predetermined location between the first and second webs at step 603, securing the reservoir relative to the webs at step 604, and cutting at step 501 the applicator in a desired outline shape from the balance of the respective webs to define a finished applicator.

16. Claim 29 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Ketner. Ketner discloses an applicator for distributing a substance onto a target surface (note lines 3-5 in col. 1) having all the claimed features including a first substrate (constituted by one of the porous sheets 26) and a flexible film dosing reservoir (constituted by container C1 when made of flexible plastic, note lines 59-62 in col. 2) comprising at least one frangible seal (note lines 51-52 in col. 2) or weak region having a comparatively low burst force (note line 55 in col. 2) and containing a product (constituted by fluid 30), the reservoir C1 being disposed adjacent to the first substrate 26 (note Fig. 2), the product 30 being adapted to be released sequentially to the first substrate via multiple applications of pressure to the reservoir C1 (note lines 55-58 and 69-74 in col. 2).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

17. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

18. Claims 1-5, 10-21 and 25-30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gerber et al. in view of Ketner. Gerber et al. disclose an applicator for distributing a substance onto a target surface having the claimed features including a first side or substrate 2 having a first internal surface and a first external surface, a second side 2 having a second internal surface and a second external surface (note Fig. 2), and at least one flexible film dosing reservoir (constituted by the outer gelatinous capsule 1, note lines 24-27 in the second column on page 1) comprising a resealable channel in fluid communication with the reservoir 1 (note from line 45 in the first column on page 2 to line 6 in the second column on page 2), the reservoir 1 containing a product (note lines 29-32 in the second column on page 1), the reservoir 1 being

Art Unit: 3751

disposed between the first internal surface of the first side 2 and the second internal surface of the second side 2, and the product being adapted to be released from the reservoir 1 through the resealable channel and through the first side 2 via application of pressure to the reservoir 1 (note lines 21-25 in the first column on page 1, from line 45 in the first column on page 2 to line 2 in the second column on page 2, and lines 15-18 in the second column on page 2). Although Gerber et al. inherently discloses that the reservoir 1 has a predetermined weak region (constituted by the predetermined point where the outer shell of the reservoir 1 is penetrated by the pin or other sharp instrument), attention is directed to Ketner who discloses another applicator having a flexible film reservoir constituted by container C1 having frangible walls 28 provided with predetermined weak regions constituted by scored lines 34 (note lines 50-58 in col. 2) in order to permit the reservoir to break along the predetermined weak regions. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the applicator art, at the time the invention was made, to form the reservoir 1 of Gerber et al. with weak regions in view of the teachings of Ketner in order to predetermine where the reservoir will break rather than relying on using an additional pin or other sharp instrument to penetrate the reservoir. With respect to claims 2 and 28, Gerber et al. also disclose using a substantially impervious barrier layer 4 located between the reservoir 1 and the internal surface of the second side 2 (note Fig. 3). With respect to claim 13, although Gerber et al. fail to disclose a plurality of fluid-impervious barrier layers 4 disposed on the second internal surface of the second side, mere duplication of parts has no patentable significance unless a new and unexpected result is produced (see MPEP § 2144.04(VI) (B)) but, in any event, to provide the second internal surface of the second side of Gerber et al. with two substantially fluid-impervious barrier layers 4 would be an obvious expedient to one of ordinary skill in the applicator art especially when better control of the egress of the material or fluid is desired. With regard to claims 11 and 14, Ketner further teaches the obviousness of using a second reservoir or plural compartments containing a second product or products (note lines 45-61 in col. 3 and lines 10-20 in col. 4). With regard to claims 3 and 27, Gerber et al. further disclose that the applicator is a pad (note line 1 in the first column on page 1). With respect to

Art Unit: 3751

claim 4, Ketner additionally teaches the obviousness of using a rupturable reservoir (note lines 55-59 in col. 2). With respect to claim 5, Ketner further teaches the obviousness of using a reservoir rendered rupturable by a frangible seal (note lines 50-67 in col. 2). With respect to claim 12, Ketner additionally teaches the obviousness of forming the frangible seal with at least one stress concentrator (constituted by the scored lines 34). With regard to claim 11, Ketner also teaches the obviousness of using a reservoir that has a plurality of compartments for containing product wherein the compartments are adapted to provide at least one function (note lines 51-54 in col. 1) and the function being for mixing (note lines 50-56 in col. 3) and dispensing (note lines 59-61 in col. 3). With respect to claim 10, Gerber et al. further disclose a distribution head constituted by the opening through which the fluid escapes from the reservoir 1. With regard to claim 15, Ketner further teaches the obviousness of forming the reservoir of a material capable of varying seal strengths (note lines 27-35 in col. 4). With respect to claim 16, Ketner additionally teaches the obviousness of forming the first side of a substantially non-absorbent material (constituted when it is formed of plastic which is perforated, note lines 40-47 in col. 2). With respect to claim 17, Gerber et al. also disclose that the second side is made of a substantially absorbent material (note lines 1-3 in the first column on page 2). With respect to claim 18, the gauze layer 5 in Gerber et al. inherently constitutes a friction enhancing element located on at least one of the first and second sides. With regard to claim 19, the gauze layer 5 in Gerber et al. is inherently textured. With regard to claim 20, Gerber et al. further disclose locating the reservoir to avoid inadvertent dispensing (note lines 24-35 in the second column on page 1). With respect to claim 21, Ketner also teaches the obviousness of using the applicator of Gerber et al. for cleaning and polishing (note lines 27-30 in col. 1). With respect to claims 29 and 30, Gerber et al. further disclose that the product is adapted to be released sequentially to the first substrate via multiple applications of pressure to the reservoir 1 (note lines 13-20 in the first column on page 1, from line 41 in the first column on page 2 to line 6 in the second column on page 2, and lines 13-20 in the second column on page 2). With regard to claims 25 and 30, Gerber et al. additionally disclose a flow restriction layer (constituted by layer 4, note Fig. 3 and

lines 9-15 in the first column on page 2) disposed between the reservoir 1 and the first substrate (constituted by the bottom portion of layer 3).

19. Claims 6, 7 and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gerber et al. in view of Ketner as applied to claims 1-5, 10-21 and 25-30 above, and further in view of Koptis. Gerber et al. also disclose that the applicator can be folded (note Fig. 3). Although Gerber et al. fail to disclose that the reservoir is foldable proximate to the frangible seal, attention is directed to Koptis who discloses another applicator having its reservoir foldable (at fold line 13) proximate to the frangible seal 19 in order to provide a simple manner of dispensing the fluid from the reservoir by unfolding the applicator from a folded stored position (note from line 65 in col. 3 to line 2 in col. 4). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the applicator art, at the time the invention was made, to form the reservoir of Gerber et al. so that it is foldable proximate to the frangible seal in view of the teachings of Koptis in order to provide a simple manner of dispensing the fluid from the reservoir by unfolding the applicator from a folded stored position. With respect to claim 7, Koptis further teaches the obviousness of forming the reservoir such that it has a first burst force when the reservoir is folded and a second burst force when the reservoir is unfolded such that the first burst force is greater than the second burst force (note from line 65 in col. 3 to line 2 in col. 4 and lines 14-21 in col. 6). With regard to claim 22, Koptis further teaches the obviousness of using fluids or ingredients that chemically react with one another, when plural compartments or reservoirs are used, and inherently constitute a temperature changing element when the fluids or ingredients are mixed together (note lines 30-43 in col. 7).

20. Claim 23 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gerber et al. in view of Ketner as applied to claims 1-5, 10-21 and 25-30 above, and further in view of Schneider. Although Gerber et al. fail to disclose that one of the sides comprises at least one removable layer, attention is directed to Schneider who discloses another applicator having one side comprised of two plies or layers in order to provide that one ply or layer is used for one particular purpose such as dusting the target surface and then is removed to expose the second

Art Unit: 3751

ply or layer which is used for another particular purpose such as polishing the target surface. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the applicator art, at the time the invention was made, to form one side of Gerber et al. with a removable layer in view of the teachings of Schneider in order to provide that one ply or layer is used for one particular purpose and then is removed to expose the second ply or layer which is used for another particular purpose especially when plural steps are required to treat the target surface.

21. Claim 30 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ketner in view of Gerber et al. Although Ketner fails to disclose a flow restriction layer between the reservoir C1 and the first substrate 26, attention is directed to Gerber et al. who disclose another applicator having a flexible film reservoir wherein a layer 4 is interposed between the reservoir 1 and a first side of the substrate 3 in order to limit the egress of material to the face of the pad and prevent excretions absorbed by the opposite face from entirely permeating the entire pad (note Fig. 3 and lines 9-17 in the first column on page 2). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the applicator art, at the time the invention was made, to form the applicator of Ketner with a flow control layer disposed between the reservoir C1 and the first substrate 26 in view of the teachings of Gerber et al. in order to limit the egress of material to the face of the pad and prevent excretions absorbed by the opposite face from entirely permeating the entire pad.

Response to Arguments

22. Applicant's arguments filed May 10, 2004 have been fully considered but they are not deemed persuasive.

23. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-7 and 10-30 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

24. Applicant points out that the added language to claims 1 and 25 finds support in the originally filed specification on lines 13-26 of page 14. However, that particular portion of the specification merely describes a "self-sealing" distribution channel 44 that "collapses shut to

restrict, if not preclude, fluid flow” when it is not being pressurized. This particular portion of the specification does not provide support for a “resealable distribution channel”.

25. Applicant’s arguments with regard to the Draftsperson’s drawing review and the scale of certain figures have been carefully considered. However, because the present case is an IFW (Image File Wrapper), the scale required is necessary for a proper depiction of the various layers of the applicator. Regarding the cross-hatching, this objection was merely repeated from a prior action since new sets of drawings are required.

26. Applicant’s argument regarding the objection to the specification for failing to provide proper antecedent basis for “a first substrate” has been carefully considered. However, since this phraseology first appears in the claims, it is not known what structure constitutes such a substrate since the specification does not support or describe a substrate.

27. Applicant’s arguments with respect to the rejection of claim 2, 13 and 14 under the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112 have been carefully considered. However, the specific location of the barrier layer, i.e., “between the reservoir and the second internal surface of the second side”, as called for by the claims, is not supported by the originally filed disclosure. Figure 2 of the drawings clearly shows the barrier layer 25 or 27 covering the internal surface of the reservoir.

28. Applicant’s arguments with respect to the claims that are rejected under the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112 have been carefully considered. However, the language used in the claims is either inconsistent with the specification or is totally lacking support in order to fulfill the requirements of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112 which calls for the specification to contain a written description of the invention in full, clear, concise, and exact terms.


Conclusion

29. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Examiner Kathleen J. Prunner whose telephone number is 703-306-9044.

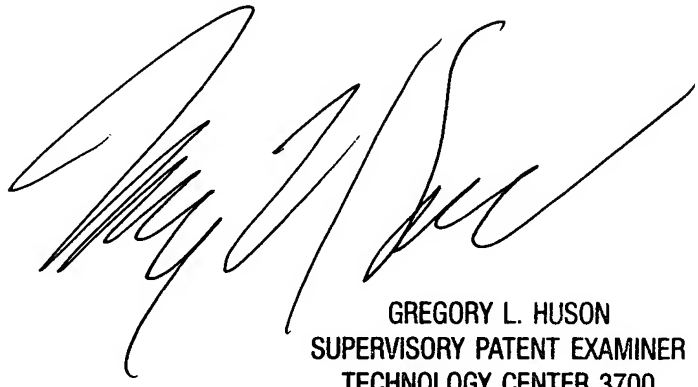
Art Unit: 3751

30. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Gregory L. Huson can be reached on 703-308-2580. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

31. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Kathleen J. Prunner

May 24, 2004


GREGORY L. HUSON
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3700